

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (original): A developing unit for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing liquid consisting of a carrier liquid and a developing substance, said developing unit comprising:

a developing roller including a roller portion and rotatable while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and

voltage applying means for applying a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and the image carrier, whereby the developing liquid deposited on said roller portion is transferred to a latent image formed on said image carrier;

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from $0\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ to $10^7\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$.

Claim 2 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 3 (original): In a developing unit including a developing roller, which includes a roller portion contacting an image carrier and rotatable while carrying a developing liquid consisting of a carrier liquid and a developing substance thereon, for developing a latent image formed on said image carrier by depositing said developing liquid on said latent image, wherein said roller portion has a ten-point mean surface roughness of $3\ \mu\text{m}$ or less.

Claim 4 (original): A developing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said roller portion and said image carrier contacting each other forms a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 5 (original): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier for carrying a latent image thereon;
a developing unit for developing the latent image by depositing a developing liquid, which consists of a carrier liquid and a developing substance, on said latent image;
a developing roller including a roller portion and rotatable while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and
voltage applying means for applying a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and said image carrier, whereby the developing liquid is transferred from said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier;
wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from $0\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ to $10^7\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$.

Claim 6 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 7 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein said image carrier has a surface formed of a-Si.

Claim 8 (original): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier for carrying a latent image thereon; and
a developing unit including a developing roller, which includes a roller portion contacting an image carrier and rotatable while carrying a developing liquid consisting of a carrier liquid and a developing substance thereon, for developing a latent image formed on said image carrier by depositing said developing liquid on said latent image;
wherein said roller portion has a ten-point mean surface roughness of 3 μm or less.

Claim 9 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 10 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein said image carrier has a surface formed of a-Si.

Claim 11 (original): A developing unit for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing liquid consisting of a carrier liquid and a developing substance, said developing unit comprising:

a developing roller including a roller portion and configured to rotate while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and

a voltage applying device configured to apply a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and the

image carrier, whereby the developing liquid deposited on said roller portion is transferred to a latent image formed on said image carrier;

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from $0\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ to $10^7\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$.

Claim 12 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 13 (original): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier configured to carry a latent image thereon;
a developing unit configured to develop the latent image by depositing a developing liquid, which consists of a carrier liquid and a developing substance, on said latent image;
a developing roller including a roller portion and configured to rotate while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and

a voltage applying device configured to apply a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and said image carrier, whereby the developing liquid is transferred from said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier;

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from $0\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ to $10^7\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$.

Claim 14 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 13, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein

said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 15 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 13, wherein
said image carrier has a surface formed of a-Si.

Claim 16 (new): A method for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier,
comprising:

- providing a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance;
- providing a developing roller including a roller portion having a volume resistivity ranging from $0 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $10^7 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$, said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;
- applying said developing liquid on said roller portion;
- applying a voltage to said roller portion;
- forming an electric field for development between said roller portion and the image carrier; and
- transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on the image carrier.

Claim 17 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 16, wherein the forming further comprises forming the electric field at a nip formed between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 18 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 16, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 19 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 17, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 20 (new): A method for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier, comprising:

providing a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance;
providing a developing roller including a roller portion having a ten-point mean surface roughness of 3 μm or less, said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;
applying said developing liquid on said roller portion; and
transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier.

Claim 21 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 20, further comprising forming a nip between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 22 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 20, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 23 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 21, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 24 (new): A method for developing a latent image, comprising:
providing an image carrier having the latent image formed thereon;
providing a developing unit configured to deposit a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance on the latent image;
providing a developing roller including a roller portion having a volume resistivity ranging from $0\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ to $10^7\ \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$, said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;
applying said developing liquid on said roller portion;
applying a voltage to said roller portion;
forming an electric field for development between said roller portion and the image carrier; and
transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on the image carrier.

Claim 25 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 24, wherein the forming further comprises forming the electric field at a nip formed between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 26 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 24, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 27 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 25, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 28 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 24, wherein the providing an image carrier further comprises providing the image carrier having a surface thereof formed of a-Si.

Claim 29 (new): A method for developing a latent image, comprising:
providing an image carrier having the latent image formed thereon;
providing a developing unit including a developing roller including a roller portion and a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance, said roller portion having a ten-point mean surface roughness of 3 μm or less and said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;
applying said developing liquid on said roller portion; and
transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier.

Claim 30 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 29, further comprising forming a nip between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 31 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 29, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 32 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 30, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 33 (new): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the providing an image carrier further comprises providing the image carrier having a surface thereof formed of a-Si.